GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1499
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Upgradation of PDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Shanta Kumar Committee constituted by the Government;
(b) the steps taken for reforms and technological upgradation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) based on the recommendations of the Committee; and
(c) the steps taken to improve the quality check of foodgrains procured by FCI and distributed under PDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) Govt. of India vide order dated 20.8.2014 constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) under the chairmanship of Shri Shanta Kumar, Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) to recommend on restructuring of Food Corporation of India (FCI).
The terms of reference of the HLC are as under:
(i) To examine the present day administrative, functional and financial structure of FCI and modus operandi of its various operations.
(ii) To study various models of restructuring or unbundling of and to suggest a best suited model for restructuring or unbundling of FCI to improve its operational efficiently and financial management.
(iii) To suggest measures for overall improvement in management of foodgrains by FCI.
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(iv) To define or give suggestions to reorient the role and functions of FCI in Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, storage and distribution of foodgrains and food security systems of the country.
(v) To suggest a way forward for strengthening and integration of supply chain of foodgrains in the country.
(vi) To suggest most efficient and cost effective model from the point of view of storage and least cost option of moving grains.
(vii) To recommend scientific model of storage.
(viii) To recommend rationalized mode of moving grains including tracking of carriage.
(ix) To suggest the upgradation of technology in management of food grains.
(b): The steps taken for reforms and technological upgradation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) based on the recommendations of the Committee are as follows :-
1. Depot Online System has been launched and is operational at 377 depots (including 30 Pilot Depots).
2. User Credentials for 494 depots have been created by the System Integrator (SI) and have been shared with the concerned Depots and District offices along with the link for accessing the application for login in.
3. Training for the implementation of the application at depots other than Pre-Pilot & Pilot Depot have been conducted by SI, at 164 FCI District Offices, 25 FCI Regional Offices and 5 FCI Zonal Offices have been completed.
4. Hardware has been delivered at 494 Depots and 117 District Offices.
5. E-mail gateway has been provided by NIC and SI has integrated the same with the application.
6. Digitization of Beneficiary Database for PDS- Enable correct identification of beneficiaries; removal of bogus cards and better targeting of food subsidies.
7. Computerisation of Supply Chain Management - Timely availability of foodgrains to intended beneficiaries at FPS; check leakages/diversion.
8. Redressal Mechanism and Transparency Portal - Introduce transparency & public accountability in the implementation of TPDS.
(c): The Board of Directors of FCI has agreed to the proposal for upgradation of Institute of Food Security (IFS) Lab, Gurgaon, purchase of equipments, National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation and outsourcing of testing of chemical parameters to fulfill Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) requirements till the up-gradation of IFS lab is completed. The board further decided to upgrade all the Zonal Labs to equip those with testing of chemical parameters.
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